



Media Fairness Initiative

A Look at Bias in the News



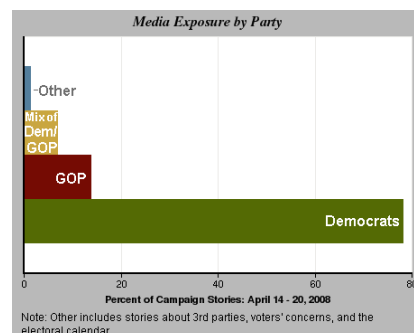
Democrats Receive Six Times More Coverage than GOP

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The Democratic presidential candidates received almost six times more news coverage than the GOP during the week of April 14-20, according to the Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ).

Sen. Barack Obama was the top newsmaker of the week, featured in 76 percent of all campaign stories. Sen. Hillary Clinton was second with 59 percent, while **Sen. John McCain was a distant third with 24 percent.**

The limited exposure McCain received was split between coverage of his new economic plan and negative personal attacks.



Media in Obama's Corner

A recent headline in *The Politico* read, "Obama's secret weapon: The media." The article, written by John F. Harris and Jim Vandehei (both former reporters with *The Washington Post*), described the backlash against ABC for the tough questions asked of Obama during last week's Democratic presidential debate.

In comparing the news coverage of Sen. Obama to other presidential candidates, the authors summarized: "The difference seems clear: **Many journalists are not merely observers but participants in the Obama phenomenon.**"

Media Bash Oil Companies, Ignore OPEC

With oil prices soaring, network news stories have assigned much of the blame to oil companies while ignoring OPEC's role in rising costs, according to a survey by the Business and Media Institute (BMI).

Since the beginning of last year, **the network newscasts have featured 43 stories on oil companies' profits and just three stories on OPEC profits – a ratio of 14-to-1.**

In addition, network news reporters have referred to oil companies as "a bunch of thieves ... ripping people off" and asked them to "cut back a bit on your profit." The networks have overlooked the anti-American sentiment of some OPEC nations and have downplayed the association's control of world oil prices.

